Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 13902 160951Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 DOE-15 SOE-02 OES-07 SP-02
PM-05 DODE-00 /102 W
----------094988 170408Z /12
R 160936Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3189
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13902

USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UR, PARM, IAEA
SUBJECT: MOROKHOV'S REMOVAL FROM CTB AND IAEA

1. EMBOFF TOOK THE OCCASION OF A CALL ON MFA COUNSELOR BORIS KRASULIN ON ANOTHER TOPIC TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE REASON FOR SCAE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN I. D. MOROKHOV'S REMOVAL AS HEAD OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO THE CTB TALKS AND ALSO AS THE SOVIET MEMBER OF THE IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS. KRASULIN CLAIMED THAT THE MOVES WERE STRICTLY INTERNAL ONES IN THE SCAE AND ASSURED THAT THERE WERE NO IMPLICATIONS FOR SOVIET POLICY IN EITHER AREA. HE SAID THAT SCAE CHAIRMAN A. M. PETROSYANTS WISHED TO TAKE THE HELM IN GENEVA AND THAT THIS MEANT THAT MOROKHOV, FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, WOULD HAVE TO DEVOTE FULL TIME TO RUNNING THE STATE COMMITTEE. MOROKHOV WOULD NOT BE RETURNING TO GENEVA. THESE NEW RESPONSIBILITIES WERE EXTENSIVE ENOUGH TO REQUIRE THAT HE ALSO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 13902 160951Z

SURRENDER THE POSITION ON THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE IAEA, ACCORDING TO KRASULIN. I. G. MOROZOV, ONE OF SEVERAL SCAE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, STEPPED INTO THE IAEA GOVERNOR'S SEAT TO FILL THE VACANCY. KRASULIN DECLINED TO SAY WHY PETROSYANTS FELT THE NEED TO TAKE OVER THE CTB DELEGATION AND CONFINED HIMSELF TO ASSURANCES THAT IT REPRESENTED NO CHANGE

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IN SOVIET POLICY ON ANY MATTERS WHETHER SCAE, IAEA OR CTB.

2. QUITE A DIFFERENT STORY OF THE CHANGES CAME FROM V. A. VASIL'YEV, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ATOMIC ENERGY BILATERAL AT SCAE IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE SCI COUNS. ACCORDING TO VASIL'YEV THE REMOVAL OF MOROKHOV FROM THE IAEA AND CTB POSITIONS WAS DUE TO ILLNESS. AGAIN WE WERE ASSURED THAT THE CHANGES HAVE NO POLICY SIGNIFICANCE.

3. COMMENT: NEITHER OF THE ABOVE STORIES ABOUT MOROKHOV'S REPLACEMENT IS VERY SATISFACTORY, ALL THE MORE SO BECAUSE THEY ARE APPARENTLY CONTRA-DICTORY. WE MIGHT HAVE ACCEPTED THAT THERE ARE NO BASIC POLICY IMPLICATIONS TO THE MOVES, BUT THE EXISTENCE OF TWO DIFFERENT STORIES ABOUT THE CHANGES RAISES SUSPICIONS EVEN IN THOSE OF US WHO ARE REGULARLY SUBJECTED TO SOVIET PREVARICATION AND EQUIVOCATION (AND ON OCCASION OUTRIGHT LYING). THE PROBLEM WITH KRASULIN'S STORY IS THAT SUCH RESHUFFLING OF HIGH LEVEL SCAE OFFICIALS DOES NOT SQUARE WITH THE ASSURANCE OF NO POLICY CHANGES. AT A MINIMUM, IT SUGGESTS THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE DECIDED TO MOVE MORE RAPIDLY IN CTB AND WISH TO HAVE THE MORE SENIOR OFFICIAL IN GENEVA TO HANDLE
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THE NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS STAGE. OTHER EXPLANATIONS ARE ALSO POSSIBLE, HOWEVER. THE VASIL'YEV STORY IS UNSATISFACTORY BECAUSE UNLESS MOROKHOV'S ILLNESS IS VERY SERIOUS AND LONG-TERM, THERE WOULD BE NO REASON TO REMOVE HIM FROM THE IAEA POSITION, EVEN THOUGH HE MIGHT SKIP A SESSION OF THE CTB. ALSO, IF INDEED HE WERE SERIOUSLY ILL, KRASULIN COULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO USE THAT EXPLANATION.

4. WE WILL INQUIRE FURTHER HERE, BUT WITHOUT ANY ASSURANCE OF SUCCESS. IF EITHER THE IAEA OR CTB DELEGATIONS HAVE OCCASION TO MENTION THE TOPIC IN CONVERSATION WITH THE SOVIET COUNTERPARTS, IT MAY HELP EXPLAIN THE MATTER. OR IT MAY SIMPLY ADD A THIRD OR FOURTH STORY TO THE LIST. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW13902
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780253-0412
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780650/aaaabrmc.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d4d05087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2322837
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOROKHOV\'S REMOVAL FROM CTB AND IAEA
TAGS: PARM, UR, US, IAEA, (MOROKHOV, I D)
To: STATE USIAEA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d4d05087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014